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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

PATENT
FINAL

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A body fluid absorbing product comprising:

a breathable top sheet; and

a water-absorbing component comprising a plurality of synthetic nonwoven fabric layers, each of the fabric layers comprising fibers having a fineness in the range of 0.01 dtex to 2 dtex;

wherein the body fluid absorbing product is washable and reusable and at least one of the synthetic nonwoven fabric layers comprises a bi-component fiber, elements of the bi-component fiber having been disintegrated by water jet treatment.

2. (original) The body fluid absorbing product according to claim 1, being a diaper.

3. (previously presented) The body fluid absorbing product according to claim 1, wherein the water-absorbing component has a compressibility of 30% or less across its thickness.

4. (previously presented) The body fluid absorbing product according to claim 3, wherein the nonwoven fabric has a compressibility of 20% or less across its thickness.

5. (previously presented) The body fluid absorbing product according to claim 1, wherein the synthetic nonwoven fabric layers each comprise a nonwoven fabric having a density in the range of 0.07 g/cm³ to 0.5 g/cm³.

6. (original) The body fluid absorbing product according to claim 1, wherein the water-absorbing component has a void volume of at least 10 cm³ for 100 cm² and has a thickness in the range of 1 mm to 20 mm.

7. (original) The body fluid absorbing product according to claim 1, wherein a hydrophilic agent is coated on the surfaces of fibers constituting the water-absorbing component, and the water absorbency of the water-absorbing component by a Byreck method is at least 50 mm.

8. (original) The body fluid absorbing product according to claim 7, wherein the water absorbency of the water-absorbing component by a Byreck method is at least 200 mm.

9. (original) The body fluid absorbing product according to claim 1, wherein the water-absorbing component has a water absorption rate of at least 100% on a weight basis.

10. (original) The body fluid absorbing product according to claim 1, wherein the total areal weight of the plurality of synthetic nonwoven fabric layers is at least 500 g/m².

11. (canceled)

12. (original) The body fluid absorbing product according to claim 1, wherein the synthetic nonwoven fabric layers are antibacterial.

13. (original) The body fluid absorbing product according to claim 1, wherein the water-absorbing component has a longitudinal or lateral shrinkage factor of 6% or less after 10 industrial washing operations.

14. (previously presented) The body fluid absorbing product according to claim 1, wherein the water-absorbing component has been subjected to a preliminary shrinkage heat treatment in hot water at 80°C or more.

15. (original) The body fluid absorbing product according to claim 1, further comprising a water-draining layer composed of a nonwoven fabric having a fineness in the range of 5 dtex to 100 dtex and disposed at a side remote from the top sheet.

16. (original) The body fluid absorbing product according to claim 1, further comprising a water-draining layer composed of nonwoven fabric having a fineness in the range of 5 dtex to 100 dtex and disposed between the plurality of synthetic nonwoven fabric layers.

17. (previously presented) The body fluid absorbing product according to claim 1, wherein the top sheet comprises a synthetic fiber, and when 0.1 ml of droplet is placed onto an inner face that comes into contact with skin, the diffused area of the droplet at an outer face in contact with the water-absorbing component is at least two times the diffused area at the inner face.

18. (original) The body fluid absorbing product according to claim 1, wherein the body fluid absorbing product has a water absorption rate of 5 seconds or less, the water absorption rate being a time when 0.1 ml of a droplet placed on the top sheet is absorbed into the body fluid absorbing product.

19. (original) The body fluid absorbing product according to claim 1, wherein the top sheet is a textile structure with a plurality of layers, and a layer in contact with the water-absorbing component is denser than a layer away from the water-absorbing component.

20. (original) The body fluid absorbing product according to claim 1, wherein the top sheet comprises a fiber textile having an irregular surface at an inner face that comes into contact with skin, the difference between the peak and the bottom of the irregular surface being at least 200 μm .

21. (original) The body fluid absorbing product according to claim 1, wherein the fineness of the top sheet varies across the thickness and is smaller at a face in contact with the water-

absorbing component than a face away from the water-absorbing component.

22. (original) The body fluid absorbing product according to claim 1, wherein the fineness of a fiber, in contact with the water-absorbing component, of the top sheet is in the range of 0.01 dtex and 5 dtex, and the fineness of a fiber not in contact with the water-absorbing component is at least 1.2 times the fineness of the fiber in contact with the water-absorbing component.

23. (original) The body fluid absorbing product according to claim 1, wherein a hydrophilic agent is coated on the surfaces of fibers constituting the top sheet.

24. (original) The body fluid absorbing product according to claim 1, wherein the top sheet is water-repellent.

25. (original) The body fluid absorbing product according to claim 1, wherein the top sheet has an air permeability of at least 300 cm³/(cm²•sec).

26. (original) The body fluid absorbing product according to claim 25, wherein the top sheet has an air permeability of at least $500 \text{ cm}^3/(\text{cm}^2 \cdot \text{sec})$.

27. (original) The body fluid absorbing product according to claim 1, wherein the water absorption rate of the top sheet is 5 seconds or less after 10 industrial washing operations.

28. (original) The body fluid absorbing product according to claim 1, further comprising a liquid-impermeable back sheet, the water-absorbing component being disposed between the top sheet and the back sheet.

29. (original) The body fluid absorbing product according to claim 28, wherein the back sheet has a limit hydraulic pressure of at least 5 kPa.

30. (original) The body fluid absorbing product according to claim 28, wherein the back sheet has a water vapor permeability of at least $4,000 \text{ g}/(\text{m}^2 \cdot 24 \text{ hours})$.

31. (previously presented) The body fluid absorbing product according to claim 28, wherein the back sheet is provided with an antiskid member at a face that does not contact the water-absorbing component.

32. (original) The body fluid absorbing product according to claim 28, wherein the top sheet and the water-absorbing component, or the top sheet, the back sheet, and the water-absorbing component or the water-draining layer therebetween are combined by sewing with a water-repellent thread.

33. (original) The body fluid absorbing product according to claim 1, wherein the body fluid absorbing product has a structure preventing side leakage.

34. (previously presented) The body fluid absorbing product according to claim 1, wherein the synthetic nonwoven fabric layers each consist of semi-synthetic and/or synthetic fibers.